

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering a message to a user with an electronic account, comprising the steps of:

receiving the message directed to the user with the electronic account, where the message

includes an electronic address associated with the user's electronic account and a non-standardized physical address of the user;

determining a standardized physical address of the user from the electronic address using an address database;

linking the standardized physical address to the electronic account;

determining a preferred address of the user, the preferred address being one of the

electronic address and the standardized physical address linked to the electronic account; and

delivering the message to the user at the preferred address.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the preferred address is the electronic address.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the preferred address is the standardized physical address.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:
informing a sender of the message of the standardized physical address.
22. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the address database is a United States Postal Service address database.
- 23-49. (Canceled)
50. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system for delivering a message to a user with an electronic account, comprising:
a computer comprising:
a receiving component configured to receive the message directed to the user with the electronic account, where the message includes an electronic address associated with the user's electronic account and a non-standardized physical address of the user;
a determining component configured to determine a standardized physical address of the user from the electronic address using an address database;
a linking component configured to link the standardized physical address of the user to the electronic account;
a component to determine a preferred address of the user, the preferred address being one of the electronic address and the standardized physical address linked to the electronic account; and

a message delivering component configured to deliver the message to the user at the preferred address.

51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the preferred address is the electronic address.
52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the preferred address is the standardized physical address.
53. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 50, wherein the computer further comprises: an informing component configured to inform the sender of the message of the standardized physical address.
54. (Original) The system of claim 50, wherein the address database is a United States Postal Service address database.
- 55-68. (Canceled)
69. (Currently Amended) A computer-usable storage medium having computer-readable code embodied therein for delivering a message to a user with an electronic account, the computer-readable code comprising: a receiving module configured to receive the message directed to the user with the electronic account, where the message includes an electronic address associated

with the user's electronic account and a non-standardized physical address of the user;

a determining module configured to determine a standardized physical address of the user from the electronic address using an address database;

a linking module for linking the standardized physical address of the user to the electronic account;

a module to determine a preferred address of the user, the preferred address being one of the electronic address and the standardized physical address linked to the electronic account; and

a message delivering module configured to deliver the message to the user at the preferred address.

70-75. (Canceled)

76. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system for delivering a message to a user with an electronic account, comprising:

a computer for executing instructions, the instructions comprising:

means for receiving the message directed to the user with the electronic account,

where the message includes an electronic address associated with the user's electronic account and a non-standardized physical address of the user;

means for determining a standardized physical address of the user from the electronic address using an address database;

means for linking the standardized physical address to the electronic account;

means for determining a preferred address of the user, the preferred address being one of the electronic address and the standardized physical address linked to the electronic account; and

means for delivering the message to the user at the preferred address.

77-78. (Canceled)

79. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering a message to a user with an electronic account, comprising the steps of:
- receiving the message directed to the user with the electronic account, where the message includes an electronic address associated with the user's electronic account and a non-standardized physical address of the user;
- determining a delivery point identification key using the electronic address, wherein the delivery point identification key points to a location in an address database, the location associated with a standardized physical address of the user;
- linking the delivery point identification key to the electronic account;
- determining a preferred address of the user, the preferred address being one of the electronic address and the standardized physical address retrieved from the address database through use of the delivery point identification key linked to the electronic account; and
- delivering the message to the user at the preferred address.

80-85 (Canceled)

86. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system for delivering a message to a user with an electronic account, comprising:

a computer comprising:

a receiving component configured to receive the message directed to the user with the electronic account, where the message includes an electronic address associated with the user's electronic account and a non-standardized physical address of the user; and

a determining component configured to determine a delivery point identification key using the electronic address, wherein the delivery point identification key points to a location in an address database, the location associated with a standardized physical address of the user;

a component configured to link the delivery point identification key to the electronic account;

a component configured to determine a preferred address of the user, the preferred address being one of the electronic address and the standardized physical address retrieved from the address database through use of the delivery point identification key linked to the electronic account; and

a delivering component configured to deliver the message to the user at the preferred address.

87-91 (Canceled)

92. (New) The method in Claim 18 wherein:

the method further comprises linking an alternate electronic address to the electronic account; and

the preferred address may also be determined to be the alternate electronic address linked to the electronic account.

93. (New) The method in Claim 92 wherein:
the alternate electronic address is a vanity email address.
94. (New) The method in Claim 93 wherein:
the alternate electronic address is a telephone number.